

09/575094US02

09/666,642

Art Unit: 1711

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 3-13, with the paragraph below:

In one set of embodiments, the present invention relates to a composition, comprising a blend of an oxygen barrier polymer, an oxygen scavenging polymer, and an oxidation catalyst. The blend can be miscible or compatible. In one embodiment, the composition can further comprise a compatibilizer. Preferred oxygen barrier polymers include polymers or copolymers of vinyl alcohol (such as ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer (EVOH)), polyesters (such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or polyethylene ~~naphthalate~~ naphthalate (PEN)), polymers or copolymers of vinylidene dichloride (such as polyvinylidene dichloride (PVDC)), polymers or copolymers of epoxies, polysulfones, polymers or copolymers of acrylonitrile (such as polyacrylonitrile (PAN)), polymers or copolymers of isocyanates, or polyamides other than MXD6 (e.g. nylon 6; nylon 6,6; or nylon 6,12; among others).

Replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 21-30, with the paragraph below.

The oxygen barrier polymer is any polymer generally viewed as providing a barrier to oxygen passage, e.g. a 1 mil layer consisting essentially of the oxygen barrier polymer has an oxygen transmission rate of less than about 100 cc/m²/day at room temperature under 1 atm O₂ and 0% humidity. Preferably, the oxygen barrier polymer is selected from polymers or copolymers of vinyl alcohol (such as ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer (EVOH)), polyesters (such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or polyethylene ~~naphthalate~~ naphthalate (PEN)), polymers or copolymers of vinylidene dichloride (such as polyvinylidene dichloride (PVDC)), polymers or copolymers of epoxies, polysulfones, polymers or copolymers of acrylonitrile (such as polyacrylonitrile (PAN)), polymers or copolymers of isocyanates, or polyamides other than MXD6.

Replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 1- 10, with the paragraph below:

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Replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 13-19, with the paragraph below:

Preferred compatibilizers include an anhydride-modified or acid-modified poly(ethylene acrylate), poly(ethylene vinyl acetate), or polycarbonate. Another preferred compatibilizer is a block copolymer of the oxygen barrier polymer or a polymer similar thereto (such as EVOH, PET, PVDC, polyethylene ~~naphthalate~~ naphthalate (PEN), or polyamide other than MXD6, among others) and EMCM, ECHA, EVCH, CHAA, or a polymer similar thereto (such as another polymer with an ethylenic backbone and a cycloalkenyl side chain).